

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Leonard R. Woods,

Petitioner

v.

Jeremy Bean, *et al.*,

Respondents

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00233-JAD-VCF

**Order Granting Motion for Leave to File
Exhibit Under Seal**

[ECF No. 35]

Counseled petitioner Leonard R. Woods filed a first amended petition for writ of habeas corpus on September 6, 2023.¹ Respondents filed a motion to dismiss,² along with supporting exhibits,³ on March 6, 2024. Respondents also filed a motion for leave of court to file one of their exhibits under seal,⁴ and they filed the exhibit in question under seal.⁵ Woods did not respond to Respondents' motion to file the exhibit under seal.

While there is a strong presumption in favor of public access to judicial filings and while courts prefer that the public retain access to them,⁶ a court may seal its records if a party demonstrates "compelling reasons" to do so.⁷ "Compelling reasons" exist where the records

¹ ECF No. 17.

² ECF No. 28.

³ ECF Nos. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36.

⁴ ECF No. 35.

⁵ ECF No. 36.

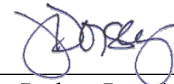
⁶ See *Nixon v. Warner Communications, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978).

⁷ See *Kamakana v. City & Cty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178–79 (9th Cir. 2006).

1 could be used for improper purposes.⁸ The exhibit that Respondents propose to file under seal—
2 their Exhibit 117—is a presentence investigation report. Presentence investigation reports
3 contain sensitive confidential information that could be used for improper purposes. Under
4 Nevada law, presentence investigation reports are confidential, and are not to be made part of a
5 public record. *See* NRS 176.156(5).

6 In view of the state law and considering the nature of the information in the exhibit, I find
7 that there are compelling reasons for the exhibit in question to be filed under seal.

8 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Respondents' Motion for Leave to File Document
9 under Seal [ECF No. 35] is **GRANTED**. As the exhibit in question—Exhibit 117—has already
10 been filed under seal, the Clerk of Court is directed to **MAINTAIN THE SEAL on ECF No.**
11 **36.**



U.S. District Judge Jennifer A. Dorsey
March 25, 2024

23 _____
⁸ *Id.* at 1179 (citing *Nixon*, 435 U.S. at 598).